



Funding for Food Business Incubator Facility is Complete

The Rutgers Food Innovation Center marked its final funding milestone as it was awarded a \$2 million grant from the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works and Economic Development Facilities program.

"We have secured \$7.4 million in grants, including this funding from the U.S. EDA, which will enable construction of a 23,000 sq. ft. facility to be located right here on Route 49 in Bridgeton," said Louis Cooperhouse, director of the center. "This new facility will house state-of-the-art food processing equipment, technical and business support services, and a hub for distance learning and continuing education. The Food Innovation Center business incubator facility will become a major catalyst for economic development for the food and agricultural sectors in New Jersey, creating new and higher-paying jobs while helping to preserve farmland in our state."

Funding for the incubator has come from federal, state and community sources. "Approximately 90 percent of the funding for the Food Innovation Center incubator facility originated from outside of the university, which illustrates the tremendous support that the Food Innovation Center has received from our partners," noted Bob Goodman, executive dean for agriculture and natural resources at Rutgers University, and executive director of the NJAES. "We are extremely thankful for the strong support that the Food Innovation Center has received from United States Congressman Frank LoBiondo, State Senator Stephen Sweeney, Assemblymen Douglas Fisher and John Burzichelli, Bridgeton Mayor Michael Pirolli, USDA State Director Andrew Law, Secretary of Agriculture Charles Kuperus, former Cumberland Empowerment Zone Executive Director Sandra Forosisky, and many others since the inception of this project."

Food Innovation Center projections indicate that the incubator will result in a tremendous benefit to the economy of New Jersey, particularly in the southern part of the state. According to its estimates, by 2010 the Food Innovation Center will have assisted 875 clients, created more than \$200 million in cumulative new revenue (at an annual rate of about \$85 million during 2010, with significant escalation each year thereafter), created thousands of new jobs, returned local tax revenue of more than \$5 million annually and retained thousands of jobs via its programs in quality assurance, food safety, and new technology integration.



The Rutgers Food Innovation Center marked its final funding milestone as it was awarded a \$2 million grant from the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works and Economic Development Facilities program. A check presentation and groundbreaking ceremony was attended by a number of federal, state and community partners of the Center, in addition to many of its clients.